National Organization—1918

COLORED MEN HOLD A CONFERENCE WITH PRESIDENT

The Richmond Planet 10/12/18

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES RECEIVES THE DELEGATION.

The Richmond Planet

The most encouraging and most hopeful incidents in the history of the race for many years was the cordial reception and democratic expressions of the President of the United States when he received the Delegates to the Negro Race Congress sitting in Washington, D. C., October 1, 2, 3, 1918.

The delegation was led by Rev. W. H. Jernigan, D. D., Washington, D. C., President and Bishop I. N. Ross, Washington, Vice-President, into the White House. Promptly at 4:30 P. M., the Secretary, Mr. Tumulty, advised the delegation that the Chief Executive was ready for the reception, whereupon the delegation walked in and stood in a crescent about the President.

JUDGE WILLIAM HARRISON.

Judge William Harrison, of Chicago, Illinois, was introduced to the President by Rev. W. H. Jernagin as spokesman. Judge Harrison asked the President's permission for a word of prayer and this granted, Rev. J. C. Austin, D. D., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, breathed a word of fervent prayer. Judge Harrison then stated completely the case and cause of the Negro to the President in language chaste, lucid, sympathetic, positive, forceful and replete.

As bold as Paul on Mars Hill, he pointed out the many discriminations against his race in this Nation and appealing to the Christian virtues of the President of the Nation, prayed that these injustices cease. Assured the President as a matter of repetition that the race was with him in winning the great war and in doing any and everything else that was catholic in spirit and democratic in purpose, operation and effect.

The President was moved to tears as the Judge plead the cause of his race. In responses the President assured the delegation that the spokesman had interpreted his spirit and said that he would do everything that was in his power to right all wrongs complained of and would hasten as fast as he could the kind and sort of democracy that he stood for and that the spokesman mentioned.

The following was filed with the President:

Headquarters National Race Congress
903 Third Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C., October 1, 1918.
Hon. Woodrow Wilson,
President of the United States,
Washington, D. C.

Mr. President: The National Race Congress in an annual conference of delegates from the several States, convened to consider the conditions of our people in the United States and to construct a program for the development of the social, economic, and spiritual life of our race. We seek to foster the aims and aspirations of a free people; and to secure to our fellows the guarantees of the Constitution of the United States, by lawful agitation, fellowship and service.

We meet this year when our country is at war. We feel with all other Americans the burdens that war imposes, and we offer to our country, not our bit, but our best. Our loyalty is unwavering, our service is whole hearted. Our history has no taint of treason. Our blood has been freely given in all our country's wars. Hence we have

(Continued on Eighth Page.)

ISSUES ANNUAL CALL

Richmond Planet 10/31/18

National Equal Rights League Invites Colored Race to Assemble in Chicago, September 17-19 to Get Race Organized to Push Claims for Possession of Full and Equal Democratic Rights.—Unprecedented Opportunity.

Colored Americans:

The year 1918 is a time unusual and unprecedented in the history of Americans of African descent. Not only are they taking part for their country in an European war for dedocracy, but within two months two National Colored gatherings of entirely different make up have laid before the government of the United States the proscriptions of our race.

The Conference of Colored Editors and others was called together by the War Department, to which it made complaint. The National Colored Liberty Congress was called by a national race committee to hold a people's convention. From both meetings good is resulting.

Expressed in plain uncompromising English, our just grievances were brought squarely before the House of Representatives and before the American people, by said Liberty Congress, and were made a prominent and permanent part of the Congressional Records. (June 29, 1918.)

It seems providentially fortunate therefore, that this note-worthy achievement on the part of the Liberty Congress is to be so soon followed by the Eleventh Annual Convention of the National Equal Rights League, to be held in September, in the city of Chicago.

Last September, at the memorable tenth annual convention of our League in New York City, Mrs. Ida B. Wells Barnett, that invincible champion of equal rights, brought to us a cordial invitation to hold the League's 1918 Convention in the city of Chicago, which invitation we unanimously and heartily accepted.

AT CHICAGO, SEPTEMBER 17-19

Therefore, by the authority vested in me as President of the National Equal Rights League, I do hereby issue this call for the Eleventh Annual Convention of said League to convene on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, of September 17, 18 and 19, in the city of Chicago, Illinois.

Fellow comrades of the National Equal Rights League and others, I cannot even begin to express how urgently important it is that our people in all sections of the country, should give prompt and earnest heed to this call.

By means of the great world-war all nations and races are being tried, as it were, by fire; their real worth and stamina are being severely tested, and none more so than that of Colored Americans; and we must not allow ourselves to be found wanting.

A double burden rests upon our shoulders while this war lasts; we must continue to perform all the duties of citizenship, freely sacrificing our time, our money, and our blood for our country; and, at the same time, we must double, rather than diminish our exertions in our own behalf, unceasingly pressing to the front our own claims and demands for an equal share in the possession and enjoyment of all those rights for which we are fighting. Our very freedom and life, and that of our unborn generations, depend upon our keeping up this double fight.

THE DOUBLE DUTY.

They are half cowards, who while fighting for their country, will not, at the same time demand an equal chance and a square deal. And they who seek and demand their rights while unwilling to shoulder their full share in the nation's and the world's struggle for freedom, will meet their deserved defeat.

Every considerable race on earth is involved in this world-war, and the future of twelve million Colored Americans, with that of other groups of peoples, is to be determined in its issue.

Besides our standing grievances, there are new and perplexing racial relations and conditions evolving out of this war that call loudly for our most earnest and immediate attention. These new war created conditions are of such vital significance as should speedily bring together our entire race leadership. This war will result in permanent benefit to us, only in proportion as we, as a race, through our own leadership and with organization nation-wide, exert ourselves earnestly, promptly and wisely in our own behalf.

Let every community join this Colored Liberty Organization Drive. Let us as a race get ready to enforce our claim to World Democracy as an issue of this world war.

Therefore, let us get together for organization as a race to enforce our claims to world democracy. Every church, civic, educational, fraternal, political and business organizations among our people without regard to sect, sex or party, are invited to be represented in the Chicago convention by one, two or several delegates to deliberate on the organizing of our race for self-defense. An especial appeal is made for the quick formation of equal rights and democracy leagues or committees for the purpose of sending delegates to this national convention for race organization for liberty.

Yours for Equal Rights,
BYRON GUNNER,
President National Equal
Rights League.

The National Equal Rights League's Great Meeting

Mrs. Ida B. Wells-Barnett, Chairman Publicity Committee.

They have just closed in Washington City the largest and most represented national gathering of the Equal Rights League. Two hundred and fifty delegates from all parts of the country, representing thirty-nine states, made up this splendid body. As a result of its four days' deliberation, ten delegates were elected to go France to attend the peace conference. They are as follows: Rev. M. A. N. Shaw, Boston, Mass.; Rev. W. T. Johnson, Virginia; Rev. J. R. Ransom, Kansas; Rev. R. W. Singleton, Georgia; Rev. D. S. Hugh, Massachusetts; Rev. W. D. Carter, Washington; Bishop L. W. Kyles, Missouri; Madam C. J. Walker, New York; Mrs. I. B. W. Barnett, Illinois; Attorney N. S. Taylor, Mississippi; William Monroe Trotter, executive secretary of the delegation. Alternates: Rev. J. R. Hardy, Kentucky; Rev. William D. Johnson, Georgia; Dr. J. A. Martin, Alabama; M. J. Adams, Alabama; B. G. Shaw, Missouri.

The delegates are to be furnished credentials and given $1,000 each for expense money. As there are only a few more days before the first of January when they hope to sail, the Race has a big undertaking to get that money together and into the hands of the commissioners by the first of the year.

Resolutions Adopted

A resolution was adopted that our people everywhere gather in their churches on the first day of January 1919, and make it a part of their emancipation day program to raise a large collection and forward it at once to **Secretary James L. Neil, 906 T Street N. W., Washington, D. C.** Here is a chance for the Race to prove how much it really wants to be represented in France. These delegates stand ready to do your work, but you must do your part and your part is to furnish the means. Mr. Neil has already sent out notices to the delegates authorizing them to collect this money. Every person who raises any money toward this fund will please send notices of the same, stating the amount of money raised and sent to the secretary, so it can be published in the Defender and the whole country can see just how much money has been raised and who raised it. Send this information to **Mrs. Ida B. Wells-Barnett, chairman of publicity committee 3005 S. State Street, Chicago, Ill.**

Chicago Has Already Acted

The Negro Fellowship League, the Peoples Movement and the local branch of the Equal Rights League have already acted on the reports received Sunday by its delegates, Mrs. I. B. W. Barnett and C. H. Dickerson. They all combined under the leadership of the Peoples Movement and a committee of five appointed by President Oscar DePriest. That committee agreed to have its big meeting January 3, 1919, instead of January 1 as that date is already taken. They are confident of raising the money and under the leadership of Chairman T. W. Allen can be counted on to put Chicago over the top. Let other cities get busy and do the same.

Universal Negro and African Communities Association

This association, with headquarters in New York City, held a splendid

meeting at Olivet Baptist church, 27th and Dearborn streets, last Friday night, with President Oscar DePriest of the Peoples Movement in the chair. Mr. Marcus Garvey, president, made an eloquent address. A committee of nine was appointed to consider plans for local organization. This organization hopes to do for the Negroes of the world what the Equal Rights League is trying to do for this country, unite Negroes everywhere to work for their own protection. They have already elected two delegates to Pan-African congress in France.

Atlanta University Holding Conference On Negro Problems

The two sessions of the twenty-third annual Atlanta university conference on the study of negro problems, were attended by large and enthusiastic audiences. Monday at 10 o'clock in the morning Professor Brown, of the department of economics reviewed the study of his classes in the franchise and American negro during the year. Lafayette M. Mershaw, of Washington, a graduate of Atlanta university, who has been for many years in the land department, Washington, delivered an address on the historical aspects of the subject, reviewing the position of President Lincoln and the work of the Freedmen's bureau.

Dean Kelley Miller, of Howard university, addressed the evening session at 8 o'clock. His theme was the present condition of the franchise and the future prospects for the negro race.

The resolutions summing up the sentiments of the conference recommended that negro citizens should qualify to vote and cast their ballots for good government on all measures affecting the public welfare, and further expressed confidence in the sense of justice and righteousness which actuates the American people in their attempt to solve the problems of democracy.

National Liberty Conference Hold a Business Meeting

CHICAGO DEFENDER NEWS SERVICE

New York, April 19.—The National Colored Liberty Conference has voted to hold a Liberty Congress at Washington, D. C., May 29 to June 2.

They intend to present to the national government many Race issues and ask for final adjustment of the same.

The conference urges all the churches, lodges, clubs and other societies to elect delegates on or before May 20 to go to this congress. A local committee in Washington, D. C. has been appointed to make arrangements for this meeting.

At this meeting, held in the home of the president, Rev. A. C. Powell, many board members were present and Hubert H. Harrison presided. William Monroe Trotter was made executive secretary, and Allen W. Whaley national organizer. Rev. L. G. Jordan was made chairman for church appeals, and Rev. D. T. Klugh of Boston, Mass., was elected national treasurer. The Boston headquarters of the executive secretary, who is editor of the Boston Guardian, will be 24 Cornhill street, Boston, Mass., as will also be the address of the national organizer and treasurer.

The meeting closed after the executive committee of the board of managers had addressed a letter of protestation to President Wilson against the forcing of separate eating rooms for the two races by armed guards at the government shipbuilding plant on Hog Island, Pa., declaring that "it is discreditable that the largest American shipbuilding plant under federal control is permitted to insult the Colored shipbuilders by an undemocratic segregation in the eating rooms enforced by armed guards."

THE TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL MEETING

OF

THE AMERICAN NEGRO ACADEMY

TO BE HELD AT THE

Y. M. C. A. BUILDING, TWELFTH STREET BRANCH

Thursday and Friday, December 26th and 27th, 1918.

PROGRAM :

THURSDAY, 11:00 A. M.: Academy called to order. Minutes of last meeting. Reports of Secretary and Treasurer. Routine and new business. Election of officers.

7:30 P. M.: Annual Address, A. H. Grimke.

"The Negro's Part in the New Reconstruction," Kelly Miller.

FRIDAY, 2:30 P. M.: "Africa at the Peace Conference," John W. Cromwell.

"The Negro in a Democracy," Arthur U. Craig.

7:30 P. M.: "The Negro and the New Order," Roscoe C. Bruce.

"Alexander Crummell : An Apostle of Negro Culture," Wm. H. Ferris

Discussions will follow these papers.

The public cordially invited.

J. W. CROMWELL, Corresponding Secretary,
1439 Swann St. N. W., Washington, D. C.

NEGRO ACADEMY HOLDS SESSION

Washington, Dec. 29—The American Negro Academy, holding a two days' session here this week, re-elected Archibald H. Grimke as president, the other officers elected being: Prof. Kelly Miller, Bishop J. Albert Johnson, Mathew Anderson and L. V. Johnson, vice presidents; Rev. F. J. Grimke, treasurer; Arthur U. Craig, recording secretary; J. W. Cromwell, corresponding secretary, and Prof. Miller, Dr. J. E. Mooreland, Rev. F. J. Grimke, A. U. Craig, F. H. M. Murray, L. M. Hershaw and J. W. Cromwell members of the executive committee. Papers were read by L. M. Hershaw on "The Migration Movement Since the Civil War;" "Some Phases of the Migration Movement in Philadelphia," by Mathew Anderson; "Statistical Study of the Northern Movement of the Negro from 1860 to 1910," by Prof. Kelly Miller; "The Movement Before Appotomax," by J. W. Cromwell.

The academy sent a communication to President Wilson urging that since he had, for the government, taken over the supervision and operation of the railroads, that he abolish, by executive order all distinction based on race or color in the passenger service of the railroads of the country.